

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /167 W

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R 211642Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2018

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 4162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL, CI

SUBJECT: DUTCH REACTION TO EVENTS IN CHILE

REFS: A. THE HAGUE 4126

B. THE HAGUE 4103

C. AMSTERDAM 706

D. STATE 186304

E. LONDON 10796

1. SUMMARY: REACTION OF POLITICIANS, PUBLIC AND PRESS
TO EVENTS IN CHILE HAS BEEN ALMOST UNIFORMLY UNFAVORABLE
WITH EVEN CONSERVATIVE AND CENTER POLITICAL PARTIES
ALARMED BY INCREASING INDICATIONS OF JUNTA REPRESSION.
GON HAS SUSPENDED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO CHILE AND
IS GINGERLY HANDLING RECOGNITION ISSUE, ALTHOUGH DUTCH
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POLICY OF RECOGNIZING STATES NOT GOVERNMENTS IF APPLIED

LOGICALLY SEEMS OFFER GON LITTLE CHOICE. IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF COUP, EXTREME LEFT WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ALLEGED US ROLE, BUT ANTI-AMERICAN TONE OF MUCH CHILEAN COMMENTARY DISSIPATED LAST FEW DAYS. DUTCH INTEREST HAS NOW SHIFTED TO DUTCH "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN CHILE VIZ DUTCH MISSIONARIES EITHER IMPRISONED BY JUNTA OR IN ASYLUM IN DUTCH EMBASSY SANTIAGO. DUTCH GOVERNMENT, MOST NOTABLY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRONK BUT ALSO FONMIN AND PM, HAS CONDEMNED EVENTS IN CHILE. LABOR PARTY, NATIONS' LARGEST, HAS ALSO BEEN FIERCELY CRITICAL OF MILITARY TAKEOVER. AMONG PARTY'S EXTREME LEFT, THERE HAVE BEEN BITTER COMPLAINTS THAT USG MADE COUP POSSIBLE. THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SEPTEMBER 15, BUT ALTHOUGH WELL ORGANIZED NONE DREW MORE THAN 1500 PARTICIPANTS. EMBASSY MAIL, USUALLY GOOD INDICATOR OF FEELING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY (AT LEAST OF POLITICALLY AWARE), HAS BEEN COMPARATIVELY LIGHT ON CHILE. IN CONTACTS WITH MFA AND OTHER DIPLOMATS, EMBOFFS HAVE DRAWN UPON GUIDANCE PROVIDED STATE 186304 ALTHOUGH CASUALTY FIGURES CITED PARA 4 SEEM CONSIDERABLY AT VARIANCE WITH FIGURES REPORTED IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND AVAILABLE TO GON. USG WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE BE CRITICIZED BY EXTREME LEFT FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN COUP. MOST PEOPLE, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO ACCEPT VIEW THAT USG GENUINELY REGRETS

ALLENDE'S DEMISE. ACCEPTANCE OF VIEW THAT ALLENDE BROUGHT COUP UPON HIMSELF, SEEMS TO BE GAINING SOME GROUND. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE CHILE ISSUE WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED AGAINST US IN NETHERLANDS, AT LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEW REGIME SUCCEEDS IN CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. GON'S REACTION TO COUP IN CHILE WAS IMMEDIATE AND UNEQUIVOCAL. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL LABELED EVENT "TRAGIC AND DEEPLY REGRETTABLE". NOTING HE KNEW ALLENDE PERSONALLY, PM STRESSED ALLENDE HAD BEEN MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORT TO ELIMINATE INEQUALITIES IN CHILEAN SOCIETY, SOMETHING GON CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD EMULATE. AFTER EULOGY FOR ALLENDE IN SECOND CHAMBER BY CHAIRMAN VONDELING SEPT 13, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WAS "FILLED WITH HORROR" OVER EVENTS IN CHILE.

3. MANY DELEGATES TO LABOR PARTY CONGRESS IN AMSTERDAM SEPT 14-15, WHICH HEARD CHILEAN RADICAL CARLOS PARRA, EXPRESSED INDIGNATION OVER REPORTS USG HAD REFRAINED FROM

NOTIFYING CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE COUP. AT CONCLUSION OF CONGRESS SOME 400 DELEGATES, INCLUDING SEVERAL LABOR MINISTERS AND STATE SECRETARIES, REPAIRED TO RALLY ON THE DAM TO HEAR MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE JAN PRONK. SPEAKING FROM BACK OF OPEN TRUCK BEFORE MASSIVE POSTER OF ALLENDE, PRONK DECLARED, "ALLENDE IS DEAD, MURDERED, BUT HE LIVES ON. IT SEEMS AS IF ALLENDE DID NOT SUCCEED BUT WHAT HE HAS STARTED WILL NOT JUST DISAPPEAR".

4. DURING TV APPEARANCE LATER IN THE EVENING, MINISTER PRONK SEEMED TO SUGGEST POSSIBILITY OF NETHERLANDS BREAKING RELATIONS WITH CHILE'S "LOATHSOME REGIME," BUT ON SEPT 17, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MFA OFFICIALS, PRONK BACKTRACKED CLAIMING COUP DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ANY CHANGE IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILE AND THE NETHERLANDS. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT USG HAD SHARE IN OVERTHROWING ALLENDE, PRONK SAID THIS COULD NOT BE PROVED, ALTHOUGH HE SAID IT SOUNDED SOMEWHAT ALARMING THAT USG "HAD NOT REALLY DENIED THAT IT KNEW ABOUT THE APPROACHING MILITARY COUP." PRONK COMMENTED THERE COULD BE NO GENUINE SOCIAL PROGRESS IN LATIN AMERICA WITHOUT THE USE OF FORCE AND THAT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, APPARENT ALLUSION TO COMMENT FROM MODERATE AND RIGHT WING POLITICAL GROUPS THAT ALLENDE HAD IGNORED HIS PARLIAMENT.

5. OPPOSITION LEADER HANS WIEGEL, FLOOR LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE LIBERAL PARTY IN THE SECOND CHAMBER, ANNOUNCED THAT HIS PARTY REGRETTED THE COUP BUT SAID MILITARY HAD INTERVENED BECAUSE ALLENDE HAD REDUCED CHILE TO CHAOS. KVP'S PROF. STEENKAMP AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SCHMELZER WERE EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF MINISTER PRONK'S STATEMENTS ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN CHILE AND DECLARED SOLI-CONFIDENTIAL

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DARITY WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY IN CHILE WHICH THEY NOTED HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR JUNTA. BUT BY SEPT 20, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC APPEAL (UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR THREE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES) EXPRESSED ITS DISQUIET AT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE AND IN EFFECT DISOWNED STATEMENT BY STEENKAMP AND SCHMELZER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 4162

6. INTEREST IN CHILEAN SITUATION HAD DIMINISHED SOMEWHAT BEGINNING WEEK OF SEPT 16, BUT SUBSEQUENT REPORTING PRIMARILY IN THE PRESS, THAT (A) REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ALLENDE'S SUPPORTERS WAS HARDENING, (B) MORE THAN 4,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED DURING COURSE OF SUPPRESSION OF RESISTANCE, AND (C) DUTCH MISSIONARIES AND JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN IMPRISONED OR WERE BEING HUNTED DOWN, CONSIDERABLY REVIVED INTEREST. BY SEPT 18 DUTCH GOVERNMENT ISSUED PUBLIC APPEAL TO CHILE THROUGH MEDIA TO CEASE ITS REPRESSION AND ABIDE BY DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (THE HAGUE 4103).

7. DUTCH MEDIA HAVE NOW BEEN FOCUSSED EXCLUSIVELY ON SITUATION OF DUTCH MISSIONARIES IN CHILE. PRESS REPORTED SEPT 20 THAT FATHER SANTIAGO THIJSEN AND TWO OTHER MISSIONARIES HAD BEEN GIVEN REFUGE IN DUTCH EMBASSY IN
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SANTIAGO BUT THAT SEVEN OTHER MISSIONARIES WERE STILL UNDER ARREST. THIJSEN HAD TELEPHONE CONVERSATION FROM EMBASSY WITH LEADING LEFT WING DAILY VOLKSKRANT IN WHICH HE DES-

CRIBED IN GORY DETAIL REPRESSIVE MEASURES THE JUNTA WAS TAKING TO ELIMINATE RESISTANCE. DUTCH CATHOLIC BISHOPS ISSUED STATEMENT SEPT 20 EXPRESSING CONCERN AT EVENTS IN CHILE. IT WAS SENT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR AND CARDINAL SILVA HENRIQUES.

8. AS REPORTED THE HAGUE 4125, PRIME MINISTER IN STATE-MENT SEPT 18 INDICATED HE HAS NO PLANS TO EXPEL CHILEAN AMBASSADOR OR TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH CHILE. IN SPEECH TO HAGUE DIPLOMATIC GROUP SEPT 20, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRONK SAID GON WOULD CONTINUE SUSPENSION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO CHILE AND REGRETTED EVENTS, BUT HIS PITCH WAS SURPRISINLY MODERATE.

9. COMMENT: WE ASSUME FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL MAY HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF CHILE IN TALKS WITH ACTING SECRETARY AND THAT HE MAY ALLUDE TO CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS ADDRESS TO GA. GIVEN VAN DER STOEL'S STYLE, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THIS CRITICISM TO BE MODERATE AND NOT DEMAGOGIC. IN VIEW DUTCH INCLINATION TREAT CERTAIN CRISES PAROCHIALY, NATIONAL ATTENTION NOW SEEMS FOCUSED ON PLIGHT OF DUTCH MISSIONARIES AND JORNALISTS IMPRISONED OR HARASSED BY CHILEAN REGIME. TENDENCY TO HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR CHILEAN COUP HAS CONSIDERABLY DIMINISHED, ALTHOUGH EXTREME LEFT WING OF LABOR PARTY AND MOST RADICALS (PPR) CHARACTERISTICALLY BELIEVE USG IS MORALLY CULPABLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN CHILE. PRINCIPAL GON OFFICIALS, I.E. PM, FONMIN, AND MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENT ARE NOT VICTIMS OF SAME ILLUSION AND APPEAR TO REALIZE ALLENDE'S DOWNFALL WAS RESULT NOT OF US MACHINATIONS BUT HIS OWN INEPTITUDE. INEVITABLY GON WILL FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITH NEW CHILEAN REGIME EVEN THOUGH THE EFFORT WILL BE DISTASTEFUL. IN DISCUSSIONS SEPT 21 WITH MFA OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILEAN AFFAIRS WHO WAS PROVIDED COPY OF ASST SEC KUBISCH'S TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE, EMBOFF WAS INFORMED THAT DESPITE FRENCH RECOGNITION AND INDICATION BRITISH PREPARED TO FOLLOW SUIT OVER WEEKEND (LONDON 10796) GON WILL CONTINUE DEFER RECOGNITION AND PREFERS FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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"CONSULTATIONS" ON QUESTION.
TANGUY

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